

## **IHSA Advisor August, 2017**

### **Head Start State Collaboration Director**

There has not yet been a replacement hired for Anika Todd's position. The Collaboration Director's job has been posted at DHS and there are candidates to be interviewed in August. Stay tuned!!

### **Early Childhood Block Grant**

The Illinois State Budget has finally passed!! ISBE received \$50 million additional funding for its Early Childhood Block Grant in FY 18, which started July 1, 2017. 37% of the grant goes to Chicago. 25% goes to Prevention Initiative. Rest goes to the Preschool Development Grants for the needed Federal match. Look for the RFPs for PI expansion and PFA expansion to come out very soon. PFAE will probably come out first then PI in the next couple of weeks. This is the first time in several years that this funding is open to new entities, as well as current grantees.

**\*\*Important**—for these two expansions, PI and PFAE, entities who wish to apply for either or both of these grants, will have to fill out an “intent to apply” form on the ISBE website. Cannot use the previous intent to apply that they may have completed. There is no deadline to write the intent. Programs have up until the RFP comes out. ISBE wants to know if a program intends to write because they need to open up an electronic RFP for the program to write its grant. ISBE was not sure when the funding for the FY18 expansion grants would begin. Last year, funding began in October. Funding will end June 30. But programs can extend their end date to Aug 31. All grants, even these new ones, will be re-bid in FY 19.

For the full re-competition for FY 2019, there will be three RFPs: 1) Preschool for All, 2) Preschool for All Expansion, and 3) Prevention Initiative. The anticipated release date for these RFPs is fall/winter 2017 (have heard late November). Information will continue to be posted on the [Early Childhood RFP webpage](#).

### **DCFS Encryption List**

We are very close to having this up and running again. We are working on a secure transfer but we are so close! Look for this data soon. I have asked that both children in foster care and intact families be included. I hope to get this information to programs monthly.

### **Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD)**

The Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) funding ended this June, 2017. Several positions at the GOECD were funded through this grant. Kathy Stohr, Deputy Director at GOECD reports that staff transitions for June 30 had been planned for quite some time. Leaving the GOECD were Kathy Stohr, Joanna Su, Kate Ritter and Gail Nelson. Bryan Stokes had already left.

Kathy Stohr also reported that Dr. Cynthia Tate, Executive Director at GOECD, has secured “bridge” funding from IDHS, DCFS and unexpended RTT-ELC funds for FY 2018. They will be

hiring some new staff over the next few months including a new Deputy Director and a new QRIS Director. Also continuing will be the Executive Director, Business Manager and Data Manager. A Workforce Development Policy position is being supported by philanthropy. Kathy also noted that ExceleRate continues.

Look for a future “landing page” on the GOECD website for the evaluations of the RTT-ELC projects. <https://www.illinois.gov/gov/OECD/Pages/RTT-ELCResources.aspx>. The page will have training resources plus a final wrap-up and performance reports. In addition, an evaluation of ExceleRate is being conducted. There have been delays but an ExceleRate Validation Study is promised.

ExceleRate Validation Study Fact Sheet:

<https://www.illinois.gov/gov/OECD/Documents/Early%20Learning%20Challenge/Validation%20Study%20one%20pager.pdf>

Study Measures:

<https://www.illinois.gov/gov/OECD/Documents/Early%20Learning%20Challenge/QRIS%20Validation%20Study%20Measures.pdf>

### **Criminal Background Checks**

The revised Head Start requirement for Criminal Background Checks is still a hot topic of discussion across the nation. This requirement in every state is linked to the new background check requirement for Child Care. In Illinois Child Care is operated by the Department of Human Services (DHS). At the June 5 meeting of the Illinois Early Learning Council, Barb Payne and Diane Grigsby-Jackson from DHS reported that DHS will request an extension (or waiver) of this regulation through September, 2018. This will give the state another year to get ready for this requirement. According to Barb Payne, additional DCFS staff will be hired so delays in processing the background checks as we have experienced in the past should not occur.

Head Start and EHS programs should continue to process Criminal Background Checks for staff as they have in the past. Ann Linehan, Acting Director of the Office of Head Start, has stated that Head Start programs cannot be held responsible for the Criminal Background Check requirement if their state has an extension in place.

### **MIECHV**

MIECHV may be in trouble. The funding is supposed to end September 30, 2017. A bill was proposed to re-authorize MIECHV and extend it for 5 years. Unfortunately the bill had no support and was pulled from mark-up. Per Diana Rauner, as of 7/25/17, a new bill is being introduced in the House by Danny Davis and also a bipartisan bill to re-authorize MIECHV is being introduced in the Senate. We will have to wait and see what happens.

### **Resources and Links**

The Office of Child Care Infant-Toddler Resource Guide can be accessed at <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/infant-toddler-resource-guide>.

The Office of Child Care's TTA Network:

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/>

Sign up for the Office of Child Care announcements:

[http://www.occ-cmc.org/occ\\_announcements/signup.aspx](http://www.occ-cmc.org/occ_announcements/signup.aspx)

Sign up for the Office of Head Start announcements:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/subscribe>